

MEETING MINUTES

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Opening:

The regular board meeting of NCAD duly called and held on Saturday, December 1, 2018 at the Communication Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CSDHH), 1175 Revolution Mill Drive, Greensboro, NC at 10:14 AM.

Present were:

President – Craig Blevins
Vice President – Donnie Dove
Treasurer – Martina Moore-Reid
Secretary – Jaime Marshall Staley
Northeast Regional Representative – Linda Nelson
Western Regional Representative – Laura Herman

Guests:

Ashley Benton, NC DSDHH

Not Present:

Southeast Regional Representative – Vacant
Central Regional Representative – Christa Butner

With the approval of the board members present, President Blevins acted as Chairman of the meeting and Secretary Jaime Marshall Staley recorded the minutes.

Meeting Minutes from the last board meeting (8/25/18) was reviewed.

Motion by: Vice-President Dove

Seconded by: Treasurer Moore-Reid

Vote Count: Majority

Presidents Report:

President Blevins mentions that the National Association of the Deaf Board along with Attorney Howard are visiting the Carolinas. He has been very involved in the logistics.

NAD is visiting ENCSD (host: Hal Wright) and NCSD (host: Craig Blevins) on January 16 - 19. NAD Board Members fly in Charlotte. NAD visits Morganton on Thursday night and all day on Friday. Parents are invited to meet NAD on Friday morning as well.

DSDHH is providing transportation for all NAD Board Members (traveling from airport to hotel to meeting locations).

NC LEAD-K Committee Members: Polly Easley, Debi and Lawson McNally, Randi Polka, Donna Smolik and Linda Nelson are working diligently to propose a bill into the legislation between 2019 – 2020. Our current HB 317 show similar guidelines to the Language Equality & Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) Mission. However, HB 317 does not mandate any kind of testing for comparison purpose.

The NCAD Board discusses making an amendment to the House Bill 317 Session Law 2013-119 (session 2013) by mandating some kind of measuring tool that evaluates all deaf / hard of hearing infants and toddlers’ developmental milestones. Alexander Graham Bell organization has been historically resistant as they do not want the “comparison tools” to measure the children’s development. NCAD is insisting that the state provides data and evidence-based surveys.

Vice President Report:

Bylaws must be shared with NCAD Members 60 days prior to the conference (before General Assembly happens on June 22, 2019). Vice President Dove will handle this task and follow up with Donna Platt regarding the completion of editing the bylaws from 2017 General Assembly.

Finance Report: We are expecting large expenses due to the upcoming NCAD Conference in June 2019. All board members are to complete membership online before January 2019.

Representative Herman reports:

NCAD / NCRID Conference 2019 will be held at the same location as the previous conference in Charlotte.

Marvin Miller, Speaker for the Allies in the Deafhood workshop will happen at the NCAD Conference (all day on Friday – 6 hours long with a break in between) on June 21, 2019.

As for CEU, Representative Herman has sent in the paperwork to RID for approval.

The NCAD Board discusses covering Marvin Miller’s expenses: two-night lodging (RV site), mileage from NC to IN, meals and \$800 fee for presenting the workshop.

The NCAD Board discusses inviting Michael Ballard, a Deaf professor from Eastern Kentucky University to present at the workshop on Saturday, June 22. Laura will check with University of Kentucky to see if they will provide sponsorship, covering Ballard’s presentation fee and travelling expenses whereas NCRID has verbally said they may cover his lodging expenses.

Tentative Schedule:

All day Friday, Marvin Miller presents “Allies in the Deafhood”

Friday Award Luncheon

Friday night, Nico DiMarco – DJ NIGHT: \$30 admissions for non registrants (including refreshments)

Saturday AM, Dr. Michael Ballard presents

Saturday PM, General Assembly Meeting

NCADConferenceChairperson@gmail.com (Representative L. Herman has created an email address for conference purpose)

Silent Auction or selling raffle tickets: (Two handmade quilts donated by Christa Butner)

Sponsorship Letter task – reassigned to: Linda Nelson

Door Prize Letter task – Laura Herman

Create Sponsorship Levels – reassigned to: Martina Moore-Reid

Bylaws “cleaned up” – reassigned to: Donnie Dove

AGENDA TOPIC: 2019 NCAD Conference

Motion: Budget for Deafhood at 2019 NCAD Conference is not to exceed \$1,500.

Motion By: Secretary Marshall Staley

Seconded By: Treasurer Moore-Reid

Vote Count: Majority

AGENDA TOPIC: 2019 NCAD Conference

Motion: Budget for Entertainment Night at 2019 NCAD Conference is not to exceed \$2,000.

Motion By: Treasurer Moore-Reid

Seconded By: Secretary Marshall Staley

Vote Count: Majority

AGENDA TOPIC: Additional Admission Fees for 2019 NCAD Conference

Motion: 1-Day Workshop, Registration Fee: \$75
(either Friday or Saturday)

Entertainment Night, Admission Fee: \$30

Award Luncheon, Admission Fee: \$40

NOTE: 2019 Conference Registration Fee: \$95 (deadline: February 28)
\$125 (March 1 – April 30)
\$150 (May 1 – at the door)

NOTE: Conference Registration does include “Entertainment Night” and “Award Luncheon”

Motion By: Rep. L. Herman

Seconded By: Rep. L. Nelson

Vote Count: Majority

BREAK: 12:18 - 12:56 PM

DSDHH Report:

Medicaid reimbursements for communication access:

- January 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019: NC Medicaid will have a pilot program to provide reimbursement for sign language interpreting services in a limited number of counties. \$800K for this year (1/2 year) and \$1.6M proposed for each of the next two years. Next year is the first year of the biennium and budgets are always 2 years. DSDHH is working with NC Medicaid on the details of this program.
 - The goal is to minimize barriers to communication access in the healthcare system statewide. We will seek to have approximately \$1.6 million included in the NC Medicaid budget for the full year next year (2019-2020). NC is the second state in the nation to have a stand-alone Medicaid sign language interpreting service with its own line item in the budget.

Secretary Marshall Staley inquired how “those few counties” were selected to participate in the pilot program. No answer was given.

- The NC Institute of Medicine will have a task force starting in late February or early March to address the issue of communication access in healthcare for D/HH/DB patients with private or no insurance as well as the issue of hearing assessment and follow up care for assistant living and skilled nursing facilities.

Early Hearing Detection Intervention and NC Department of Public Instruction:

- DSDHH is working closely with EHDI and DPI on a number of issues:
 - Family mentoring
 - Educational interpreting
 - Communication access for Deaf parents with Deaf or hearing school-age children
 - Language acquisition

Recent Emergencies

- Hurricane Florence and Tropical Storm Michael: DSDHH's work to support NC's response and recovery efforts has greatly improved since Hurricane Matthew in 2016. All of Governor Cooper's press conferences had a sign language interpreter present and almost always visible on the TV thanks to DSDHH's success in educating TV stations. Many agencies, including the State Emergency Operations Center and emergency shelters, are now much more aware of DSDHH as an important State resource for D/HH/DB people.
- DSDHH has conducted an "after-action" review and identified opportunities for improvement for the next major disaster. One area of opportunity is to assist local governments in improving the accessibility of their own press conferences.

The NCAD Board recognizes DSDHH's effort in improving emergency alerts during the hurricane and flooding warnings.

Representative L. Nelson mentions that Donna Platt has been one of the driving forces in improving working relationship with the Governor's Office in providing immediate service, alerting the Deaf community.

DSDHH Newsletter

- Starting in January, DSDHH's Home Office and all seven regional centers will have a quarterly newsletter sent via Mail Chimp and, if necessary, USPS. Also, all the regional centers will send out a monthly calendar of events.

DSDHH's Interpreter Directory Lists versus ISVL (Interpreting Service Vendors List)

The NCAD Board expressed concerns about the quality of interpreting service, who are considered qualified to interpret. DSDHH has created "Sign Language Interpreter and Transliterator Directory" lists for all 7 Regional Centers: Asheville, Charlotte, Greensboro, Morganton, Raleigh, Wilmington, Wilson.

DSDHH's **ISVL** is an "internal directory", listing licensed interpreters (both provisional and full licensees).

NCAD Board expresses concerns:

- Concern 1. There are provisional licensees listed on the DSDHH's Interpreter Directory Lists and ISVL.
- Concern 2. There are interpreters who have been sanctioned by RID and/or fined by NCTILB who are still on the DSDHH's Interpreter Directory Lists.

Ashley Benton from NC DSDHH responds by stating that the DSDHH does more of a strict annual screening process of interpreters' qualification when it comes to the ISVL. However, interpreters can apply to add themselves on the DSDHH's Interpreter Directory Lists which is open to the public and is available online.

Representative L. Nelson reports:

Representative L. Nelson continues to serve on the NC Early Hearing Detection Intervention (EHDI) board and is on the "parent information packet: subcommittee. The EHDI Board has decided to remove AGB (Alexander Graham Bell) off their directory list as there is no AGB chapter in the state of NC.

Secretary Marshall Staley shares that NCSD's Staff Development Specialist, Brian Shott, has 11 different families engaged with the school's Pre-K program. 11 different families attend weekly signing classes with their deaf infant/toddler.

President Blevins points out that DSDHH gives deaf-blind X amount of equipment, same for the hard of hearing community but not much is offered for the culturally deaf community.

Meeting adjourned: 2:51 PM